

Message Text

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47

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /083 W

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O 221515Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7712

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2578

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF PFOR AO SF

SUBJ: ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: A. GENEVA 357, B. PRETORIA 0269

1. DEP UNHCR MACE HAS JUST CALLED MISSION TO ADVISE THAT HE HAS NOW RECEIVED AUTHORITY FROM UN SECGEN TO PROCEED IN EFFORT ASSIST ANGOLAN REFUGEES REMAINING ON SHIPS IN WALVIS BAY. MACE HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNHCR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN (NOW ON TRIP TO GUINEA-BISSAU) WHO ASKED THAT HE ACTIVELY SEEK ASSISTANCE SAG IN EFFECTING LANDING OF REFUGEES OFFSHORE, WHO, HE ESTIMATES, NOW NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 1,500 IN SOME 24 SHIPS OUT OF AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATED 2,600. MACE REPORTS HIS INFORMATION THAT SITUATION ABOARD "SILVER SKAY" CONSIDERABLY EASED WITH PORTUGUESE CITIZENS LANDED AND ONLY APPROXIMATELY 500 ANGOLAN REFUGEES STILL ON BOARD. HOWEVER, HE REFERRED
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TO REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED THAT MANY PORTUGUESE PUT ASHORE THUS

FAR HAVE BEEN IN "BAD SHAPE".

2. COMPLYING WITH DIRECTIVES FROM UNSYG AND UNHCR, MACE HAS APPROACHED SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR HERE TO ENLIST HIS GOVERNMENT'S COOPERATION IN LANDING REMAINING REFUGEES IN WALVIS BAY. AMBASSADOR HAS UNDERTAKEN COMMUNICATE UNHCR'S REQUEST TO CAPETOWN IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF RELUCTANCE ON PART SAG TO COMPLY, MACE INQUIRED WHETHER USG MIGHT BE AGREEABLE TO ASSIST OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS IN TWISTING SAG'S ARM ON SUBJECT IF NEEDED. IN THIS REGARD HE COUPLED APPROACH TO SA AMBASSADOR WITH OFFER TO SEND DEP DIRECTOR OF UNHCR PROTECTION DIVISION JOHN KELLY TO SCENE TO ASSIST.

3. ASKED WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE, MACE RESPONDED THATSINCE REFUGEES CLEARLY UNDER UNHCR MANDATE HE DID NOT FORESEE NEED FOR SPECIAL FUNDING AT THIS JUNCTURE. DALE

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